

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T ATHENS 5121

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ALSO TO SECRETARY ADAMS ON
HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TSATSOS ASKS SECRETARY ADAMS TO CONVEY A
MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A RECEPTION LAST NIGHT THAT
PRESIDENT TSATSOS GAVE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF VISITING
MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTATION, HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT
OF SEEKING OUT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ADAMS AND
AMBASSADOR KUBISCH FOR A PRIVATE TALK. THE PRESIDENT
SAID HE WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S
PRESENCE TO RESTATE THE VIEWS OF GREECE CONCERNING
SEVERAL MAJOR ISSUES IN THE AREA AND TO ASK THE
SECRETARY TO CONVEY THESE VIEWS TO PRESIDENT CARTER
AND OTHER US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AS APPROPRIATE.
2. PRESIDENT TSATSOS APPEARED DEEPLY CONCERNED AND
SPOKE WITH CONSIDERABLE FEELING. HE SEEMED TO BE MOTIVATED
IN PART BY A RECENTLY RECEIVED INDICATION FROM
FRIENDS OF GREECE IN WASHINGTON THAT STRONG BACKING
AND SUPPORT COULD BE OBTAINED IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE ON CYPRUS BECAUSE, AMONG
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OTHER THINGS, IT WAS AN "ETHICAL" ISSUE. AS FAR AS
GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS IN THE AEGEAN WERE CONCERNED,
HOWEVER, THESE WERE REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED IN THE US
AS "BILATERAL" PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
WHICH COULD BEST BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THEM WITH THE US FOLLOWING AN IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE
AND REMAINING VERY MUCH ON THE SIDELINES.

3. PRESIDENT TSATSOS TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT HE HOPED VERY MUCH WASHINGTON WOULD COME TO REALIZE THAT THE GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES IN THE AEGEAN CONSTITUTED "THE NUMBER ONE" THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD TO BE EQUITABLY SETTLED OF COURSE; BUT SOMEHOW THE US HAD TO BE GALVANIZED TO UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS AND DANGER INHERENT IN THE STILL SMOULDERING GREEK-TURKISH CONFRONTATION IN THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THAT HE, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND OTHERS HAD GONE OVER THIS SUBJECT IN DETAIL WITH CLARK CLIFFORD WHEN HE WAS HERE AND THAT CLIFFORD HAD SHOWN GREAT UNDERSTANDING. HOWEVER, SEVERAL MONTHS HAD NOW GONE BY AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD YET TO FEEL THAT WASHINGTON HAD THOROUGHLY GRASPED AND UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION.

4. PRESIDENT TSATSOS RESTATED VIGOROUSLY HIS WELL-KNOWN AND OFT REPEATED GOG VIEW THAT TURKEY REGRETTABLY HAD APPEARED TO ENTER A NEW "EXPANSIONIST" PHASE IN ITS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A RESURGENCE OF THE OLD "OTTOMAN" AGGRESSIVE MENTALITY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT NEXT SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS IN TURKEY MIGHT ALTER THINGS SIGNIFICANTLY, PRESIDENT TSATSOS SAID HE VERY MUCH DOUBTED IT. THE PROBLEM WAS, HE WENT ON, THAT TURKEY HAD NO SINGLE, STRONGLY-BASED LEADER THE WAY GREECE HAD IN CARAMANLIS. THEREFORE, IT WAS PROVING IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS TO COME TO TERMS BECAUSE NO ONE COULD
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REALLY SPEAK FOR AND COMMIT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THE WAY THAT CARAMANLIS WAS EMPOWERED TO SPEAK FOR GREECE. TSATSOS SAID HE VERY MUCH FEARED THAT THE ELECTIONS IN TURKEY MIGHT FAIL TO RESOLVE THIS SITUATION, ADDING THAT HE AND TOP GOG LEADERSHIP VERY MUCH HOPED THAT A STRONG TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WITH WHICH GREECE COULD NEGOTIATE EFFECTIVELY, WOULD SOMEHOW EMERGE IN COMING WEEKS.

5. SECRETARY ADAMS SAID HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S FRANK EXPRESSION OF HIS VIEWS AND AFFIRMED THE KEEN INTEREST OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN ASSURING THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT APPROPRIATELY COULD TO HELP WITH THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IN THE AREA. HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS BEYOND HIS SPHERE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO ENTER INTO ANY DETAILS CONCERNING THESE COMPLEX QUESTIONS BUT SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE PRESIDENT TSATSOS THAT HE WOULD CONVEY HIS VIEWS FULLY AND FAITHFULLY WHEN HE

RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.

KUBISCH

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